



Egremont News

Issue 53

September, 2010

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in their community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter.

Reminder: If you have a P.O. Box in South Egremont or a PMB in North Egremont you will no longer get this newsletter in the mail effective with this issue. You may pick up a printed copy at the Town Hall, the Library, the North Egremont Store, the Karner Brooke store, or the South Egremont Post Office. If you would like us to email it to you let Town Hall know what your email address is.

Egremont Special Town Meeting Scheduled for November, 6th

The Egremont Selectboard has scheduled a Special Town Meeting for November 6th, Saturday, beginning at 9:30AM, in the Undermountain Elementary School Cafeteria, in Sheffield. Refreshments will be served. This is a very important meeting to consider and vote on three major articles that may greatly impact Egremont's residents, and everyone's attendance is strongly urged.

Among the various articles still being collected are articles for a proposed new Library, a proposed new Police Station and a proposed District Agreement for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD).

The proposed new Library: The new Application Round of grants under the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program was announced in March of this year. Under this program, a majority vote from the town is required "to approve the project and grant permission to apply for, accept and expend state funding." Using \$300 per square foot as a base for projecting the cost of a new Library, as per an Outline of Construction dated August 12, 2009, the project would cost \$3,382,120. The current Application Round of grants allows for 60% of state funding for the first \$3,000,000 and 45% for the costs between \$3,000,000 and \$6,00,000. **This would result in Egremont's portion of construction to be \$1,410,166 (based on costs as of 8/12/09).** The cost of annual staff and

maintenance has yet to be presented. Updated construction and maintenance figures should be presented by the Library Building Committee at the Special Town Meeting. At the Special Town Meeting voters will have the final say as to whether they want to build a new Library.

The proposed new Police Station: A February 6th informational meeting was held regarding a proposed new Police Station. Three plans were presented and an audience of over 100 voters attended. The costs of the three plans presented at February 6th's initial meeting ranged from \$1,173,035 to \$806,800, with a fourth option to not build. As a result of that meeting, and the comment cards received, the Selectboard sought an additional, smaller plan to present to the community. A reduced floorplan of 1650 square feet, as suggested by the Selectboard after the February meeting and using modular construction, would cost \$266,190. **Plans, floorplans, elevations and costs will be presented at an informational meeting planned for October 23rd, Saturday, at 9:30am at the North Egremont Fire Station. All are invited.** At the Special Town Meeting voters will have the final say as to whether they want to build a new police station.

The SBRSD Agreement: In April, the School Committee presented to the SBRSD member towns a revised school agreement and requested it be put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Egremont Selectboard chose to present the agreement to its voters at the next Special Town Meeting, now scheduled for November 6th, in order to give their voters appropriate time to evaluate the agreement. The intention of the current existing agreement's Section 3, which gave each member town the right to determine the future of its school - whether to keep it open or close - was changed in the School Committee's April proposed agreement. The Egremont Selectboard disagreed with that change of intention and voted unanimously that "only Egremont voters could determine the future of its school." The

result of this was a petition put forth by the Egremont Selectboard to amend the School Committee's April agreement by changing the wording of Section 3, in order to maintain self-rule and retain Egremont voters' rights. With the requisite number of signatures gathered, the Egremont Selectboard's amended version was forwarded to the School Committee and will now be presented **to all of the member town's to place on their next Special or Annual Town Meeting for consideration and vote.**

Since the Egremont Selectboard promised that the Schools Committee's April agreement will appear on the Special Town Meeting, the warrant will have both agreements on the warrant for consideration and vote. While many believe this is a vote to determine whether the South Egremont School should remain open or close, it is not. That debate would be the same regardless of which agreement is passed. These agreements are to determine who makes the final decision. Whether Egremont retains the right to determine the future of its own school or whether that right is handed over to other towns. **There will be an information meeting regarding the agreement on October 23rd, Saturday, beginning at 9:30am. It will be combined with the informational meeting for the Police Station. All are invited.** At the Special Town Meeting voters will have the final say as to which agreement Egremont should accept.

The Egremont Selectboard hopes that each voter has the chance to attend these meetings and come out to the Special Town Meeting to vote. These issues may greatly impact the future of Egremont and your taxes. **On November 6th, you have the final say.**

Selectmen:

The Board will hold its Fall Saturday Selectmen's meeting on October 16, 2010 at 9:30am at the North Egremont Fire Station.

The Town has joined the 211 Program. This program is a United Way program in which a resident can dial 211 on their phone to get information and help in our community. It is free, confidential, and available 24/7. For more information go to www.mass211help.org.

There is a vacancy on the Conservation Commission. If interested please contact Chairman of the Commission, Dave Johnson for more information.

Town Clerk:

The State Primary is Tuesday, September 14. The Polls will be open from 7:00 a. m. until 8:00 p. m.

If you would like an Absentee Ballot for this election your request must be received, in writing, by 12:00 noon on Monday, September 13.

The Presidential Election is November 4. It is not too early to request Absentee Ballots for this election. The earlier you submit your request, the more efficiently it will be processed.

If you have questions concerning your voter status please contact Town Clerk Margaret Muskrat

Cultural Council:

Applications for Cultural Council Grants are due Oct. 15. Do you have an idea for a community-oriented arts, humanities or science event? Your Alford-Egremont Cultural Council is ready to help you. The Council receives funds from the Massachusetts state legislature to support a variety of artistic projects and activities – including exhibits, workshops, lectures, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, and festivals. The Council also supports proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, which provides subsidies for school-age children to attend cultural field trips. This year, the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council will distribute about \$7,000 in grants. Previously funded projects include: Egremont-on-Parade, Sheffield Whinnies, lectures at the Alford Library, art workshops and many more. For specific guidelines and complete information on the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council, contact Hilary Penglase at 413-528-1961 or penglase@verizon.net. Application forms are available online at www.mass-culture.org and are due by Oct. 15.

Historical Commission:

The Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program has been extended until December 31, 2017. Under the program a certified rehabilitation project on an income-producing property is eligible to receive up to 20% of the cost of certified rehabilitation expenditures in state tax credits. There is an annual cap, so selection criteria ensure the funds are distributed to the projects that provide the most public benefit. The MHC certifies the projects and allocates available credits. For more information on the tax credit, please visit the Massachusetts Historical Commissions website at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhctax/taxidx.htm>.

Egremont Board of Assessors –

Due Dates: Real Estate Statutory Tax Exemptions and Tax Abatements due to the use of property as Forest, Agricultural, or Recreational Land.

The deadline for submitting applications for property owners qualifying as senior, veteran or their surviving spouse or minor, and the blind and accompanying documentation, is October 1, 2010.

Tax abatements for property used as forest, agricultural/horticultural, or recreational land applications must have been in by September first to have your 2012 Tax bill correct.

If you have any questions please contact the Assessors' office at 528-0182, ext 14. Our Town Hall office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am to 12:00pm.

New from the Assessors: The charge for Abutters Lists that are prepared by the Assessors Office will cost \$1.00 per parcel reported.

Cultural Council:

Applications for Cultural Council Grants Due Oct. 15.

Do you have an idea for a community-oriented arts, humanities or science event? Your Alford-Egremont Cultural Council is ready to help you. The Council receives funds from the Massachusetts state legislature to support a variety of artistic projects and activities – including exhibits, workshops, lectures, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, and festivals. The Council also supports proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, which provides subsidies for school-age children to attend cultural field trips. This year, the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council will distribute about \$7,000 in grants. Previously funded projects include: Egremont-on-Parade, Sheffield Whinnies, lectures at the Alford Library, art workshops and many more. For specific guidelines and complete information on the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council, contact Hilary Penglase at 413-528-1961 or penglase@verizon.net. Application forms are available online at www.mass-culture.org and are due by Oct. 15.

Eco-tip #1

You've heard the environmentalists chant "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"? The **reduce** part is all about living with less – less packaging yields less garbage, less energy consumption yields less pollution, less waste yields less harm to the environment.

Board of Health:

Recently the Center for Disease Control issued a report on the general health in America which included some alarming findings. Approximately two thirds of adults and one fifth of children are obese or overweight. These alarming statistics go beyond mere vanity – being either obese or overweight increases the risks of chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancer and type 2 diabetes.

Americans have become too sedentary while at the same time turning towards foods which have little nutritional value. As the nation has moved away from jobs which once required physical labor (farming, building, manufacturing, etc.) we now rely on modern conveniences to do our work for us. While greater access to information and services has been a blessing for speed and efficiency it has not exactly done wonders to our waistlines and general health.

During 1980–2004 obesity rates among U.S. adults doubled. If you look at what was happening in the nation during that period you can track where our weight gaining woes began – the rise of the home computer and the internet (how many of us have spent an entire afternoon at our computers?), economic booms (four course dinner out anyone?), fewer stay-at-home-parents (less time to prepare more nutritious home cooked meals) and the current economic downturn (fast food joints offer cheap food options which is often the choice for many on lower incomes).

The good news is we as individuals have the power to reverse these alarming health trends by making simple adjustments in our daily lives. Here are a couple of suggestions:

1. We live in one of the most beautiful areas of the country. Get out there and enjoy it. Walk, bike or hike at least 20 minutes a day. Find a friend to be your hiking buddy or take your dog for a daily power walk. Not only will you be burning calories but you will feel better too. Fresh air is great for the soul.
2. When you eat or drink something think about its nutritional value as well as the calorie count. There are gooey hamburgers out there that contain as much as 50% of your daily fat allowance in a single serving and beverages which contain alarming amounts of sugar. Take the junk food out of your life and substitute it

with healthy options like whole grains and more fruits and vegetables.

3. Why not join one of Egremont's CSAs (Indian Line or Farm Girl) or shop at a farmer's markets. These places will provide you with the delicious, fresh, local ingredients for healthy cooking at home. Feeling really ambitious? Why not start your own backyard organic vegetable garden. Not only will you grow your own fresh vegetables but the gardening work is excellent exercise (see above and the part about fresh air being good for the soul).

Do you have a healthy living suggestion you'd like to share with Egremont newsletter readers? Submit it to the Egremont Board of Health (use the Town Hall address or email juliettehaas@yahoo.com). In future newsletters we'll print a healthy living tip submitted by an Egremont resident. If we pick your tip you'll win a small prize. But the real prize is a healthier community. Make the change now for a healthier tomorrow.

Agricultural Commission:

What an amazing growing season it has been this year! The warm temperatures have been such a boost to this year's growing that both home gardeners and commercial growers are reporting good harvests despite the lack of rain.

One thing to be aware of is the recurrence of Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) in Massachusetts. Many folks surely remember this blight from last year which devastated most tomato plants. According to UMASS Extension, Late Blight was found and confirmed on two commercial fields in Hadley, MA on July 20th and July 23rd 2010. In general, weather conditions have not been favorable to the fungus this summer, however, any period of wet weather would change that. It has been advised that all who are growing tomatoes should be protecting plants with allowed copper products and inspected regularly for symptoms of blight. Symptoms of Late Blight include: large (at least nickel-sized) olive-green to brown spots on leaves with slightly fuzzy white fungal growth on the underside when conditions have been humid (early morning or after rain). Sometimes the lesion border is yellow or has a water-soaked appearance. Leaf lesions begin as tiny, irregularly shaped brown spots. Brown to blackish lesions also develop on upper stems. Firm, brown spots develop on tomato fruit. Please check your tomato plants regularly this fall and send in tissue samples to UMASS if you suspect late blight. Infected

plants should be buried at least 18" in the ground or disposed of in plastic bags. For more information please check out:

www.umassvegetable.org/LateBlightAlertforTomatoandPotato or call 413-545-3209.

Eco-tip #2

Do we really need lettuce wrapped in plastic bags or cheese that comes in plastic clamshell containers (plastic clamshells, by the way, are not recyclable)? Be aware of excessive packaging and make every effort to reduce single-use plastic in your purchases.

Green Committee:

Update on the solar installation:

The first phase of the photovoltaic (pv) solar installation for the Highway Garage building at the Transfer Station is up and running! Our sincere thanks go out to the many Egremont residents who support clean renewable energy every month by adding a small surcharge to your electric bill. Your contributions were matched by a state grant, which enabled the Green Committee to fund this project. Brian Torrico of the Grenergy Solar Store in Sheffield made it happen, so if you are thinking about possible solar options for your home why not give him a call.

You'll be seeing quite a few more panels going up in that location in the near future. Thanks to another grant program, the Green Committee is overseeing a pv installation that will eventually meet all of the electrical needs at that town building.

Recent Transfer Station assessment and report:

The Green Committee recently received technical assistance from MassDEP to study our Transfer Station and look for ways to reduce our garbage generation and increase our recycling efforts. The final report was given to the Board of Selectmen, and here are just a few of its findings:

1. We have an excellent, well-run Transfer Station that provides numerous services to our citizens: efficient solid waste removal, recycling, sharps disposal, swap shop, etc.
2. As excellent and efficient as our Transfer Station is, better and more-consistent signage would greatly help folks with their garbage and recycling disposal questions.
3. We may be able to save taxpayer money by hauling our recycling material to a facility closer to home. In addition, as the economy improves, we may be able to negotiate a better

disposal rate for our trash when our current contract expires. Also discussed was the growing state-wide awareness of programs like Pay As You Throw (PAYT). Towns that restructure their trash collection to a cost-per-bag program have realized cost savings.

4. With the assistance of Highway Department Supervisor Jim Noe, we will soon add a leaf-drop facility. So, instead of hauling our leaves to another town (which some of us on smaller properties have had to do), the town will have a designated area to accept them, compost them, and then offer residents free compost.

Egremont on Parade Committee:

Thank you for making our 3rd Annual Egremont on Parade a HUGE SUCCESS. It was a sunny, wonderful community day. We want to acknowledge all our generous donors and supporters...

Please thank and support them:

Berkshire Bank

"Berkshares" Board
 Catamount & Catamount Adventure Park
 Simon Kirkby-Lime Rock
 Michele's Salon and Day Spa
 Mulberry Hair Salon
 Peter Goldberg-Acupuncture
 Joan Kleinman
 Bud Candee
 Sue Karp
 Simon's Rock
 Spirit Shoppe
 Swiss Hutte Restaurant
 Inn at Sweetwater Farm
 Triplex Theatre & Richard Stanley
 Wyantenuck Country Club
 Blueberry Lane
 Blue Rider
 Green River Arabians
 Indahgo Jewelry
 Brookside Quilts
 Chapman Chowdah House

Closet Collection
 Jim Olmstead-Compost
 Crownmaker Jewelry
 Curves
 CyberKnights
 Deb Macheski
 41 Main Antiques
 Geffner-Schatzky Antiques
 Frank Packlick-Paintings
 Gventer Books
 Home Asian Antiques
 Home Sweet Home Doughnut Shoppe
 Farm Girl Farm
 Indian Line Farm
 Jana Laiz & Ann Elizabeth Barnes-Books
 Kenver Ltd.
 Monte Alban Restaurant
 North Egremont Country Store
 Peter Fasano Fabrics
 Richard Allen-Ski instruction
 Paul Fodiman, Wyantenuck C.C. Tennis pro
 Elfie Six-Therapeutic Body Work
 Robin's Candy
 SoCo Creamery
 Turner Farms Maple Syrup
 Ari Zorn Boot Camp
 Tune Street
 Zorn Family Chiropractic
 The East Restaurant
 John Hockenberry-Books
 Louann Harvey
 Marj Wexler-Rug
 Egremont Country Club
 Robert & Elaine Rush/Church Street Trader
 Tom & Miriam Curnin
 David Siegel
 Donald Roberts
 Stephen Cohen
 Stephen Schoenfeld & Penny Hudnut
 Walter & Ursula Cliff
 Berkshire Property Real Estate
 Lance Vermeulen Real Estate
 Salisbury Bank
 Legacy Bank
 Egremont/Alford Cultural Council
 Peter & Sue Marrese
 Frank & Hilary Penglase
 Walter & Iris Rubinstein
 John & Amanda Hohman
 Adrian & Judith Van Zon

AdPartner, Inc Karen & Bruce Cumsky
Poster & Program Design

Our restaurants, vendors, entertainers....

The Old Mill, Perigee, Route 7 Grill, John Andrews.
Roger the Jester, David Grover, Jim and Teri Weber-
Berkshire Bateria, Doug Mishkin, Our Pocket Lady
Eileen Johnson.

4H Petting Zoo, Baby Animals, Pony Rides, - The
Springstube Family, Amanda and Jon Hohman,
Sheffield Whinnies 4-H Club.

Salisbury Bank Face Painting,
Haupt Tree Co. Cherry Picker,
Old Yankee Street Rods

Our wonderful and hard working volunteers:

Louann Harvey's Family,

Henry Granger,

Bob and Linda Warner,

Sue Leonard,

Jake Robins,

Noah Hudnut,

Barbara Gilgoff

Hilda Shapiro,

Elizabeth Holland,

Sandi & Ron Ashendorf,

Lita Moses,

Bonita Ganot,

Sue Karp,

Judith & Joel Grossman

Bill Turner and our Fire Department

Rena Bucknell and our Police Department,

Board of Health

Health/Wellness/EMT Robin McGraw

Egremont Garden Club- for beautiful flower beds and an
amazing nature walk

Our Clean Up Committee (special shoutouts to Marj
Wexler, Tom Sierau, Juliette Haas)

Town Hall (shoutouts to Mary Brazie, Nick Ball, Jenn
Goewey)

We hope that some of you will be inspired to join our
committee do that we can continue this tradition.

Egremont on Parade Committee

Louann Harvey

Stephen Schoenfeld

Tev Sumner

Carol Robins

Ellen Shaby

Georgann Farnum

Ada Johnson

Jerry Johnson

Robin Goldberg

Planning Board:

For more than a year, the Egremont Planning Board has been following the progress of the proposed Wind Energy Siting Reform legislation. This bill would expedite review of proposals for siting of wind energy facilities and effectively take the decision-making authority out of the hands of local boards and municipalities. Final decision could be put into the hands of an appointed state board, with limited opportunity for appeal. This legislation was proposed by Governor Patrick's administration to achieve the governor's goal of 2,000 MW of wind power generation within the state by 2020. It is estimated this would mean approximately 3,000 wind turbines across Massachusetts.

Because the Cape and the Berkshires have the highest potential for wind generation, this proposed legislation would impact these areas to the greatest extent. Large commercial wind farms would likely be proposed for our region, and under the proposed legislation our towns would have little authority over their siting.

On several occasions, the Egremont Planning Board had input to the governor's administration and the legislature expressing concerns with this legislation. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and other regional organizations also expressed concerns with this legislation as it evolved through the legislative process. The Egremont Selectboard also had input during this process. Via letters, attendance at meetings, and attendance at the Statehouse, members of the Planning Board, both individually and as representatives of the board's position, opposed final approval of this legislation until the various issues could be addressed.

Ultimately, the clock ran out on the proposed legislation, as the various amendments passing between the House of Representatives and the Senate did not receive final approval of both branches before the legislative session formally ended at midnight on July 31, 2010. Supporters of the legislation plan to attempt to pass it during informal session, before the legislature resumes formal session in January 2011, when the legislative process would begin anew. Updates on that status should be available in the news media.

Meanwhile, the Planning Board will follow progress of this legislation and would like all townspeople to be aware of the impact it could have on our area. Local legislators have been split in their support/opposition regarding this bill.

Eco-tip #3

Confused about what plastic is recyclable and what isn't? Welcome to the club. Just because an item has the little recycling logo on the bottom doesn't mean it is recyclable. (It just means it's made of plastic.) Styrofoam, cds, plastic cups and utensils, clamshells, molded plastic are not recyclable. Avoid these items when you can or reuse them.

Conservation Commission:

Ever consider Rain Barrels?

Water. Precious isn't it? Why would anyone want to waste it? Well if you aren't using rain barrels, you are missing a wonderful opportunity to utilize this precious resource. The expense is nominal. The installation is not complicated. The benefits are huge. And gravity *always* works.

Rainwater is full of many different minerals and nutrients that are often removed by in-house water softeners, or town water. There is no added chlorine. Watering houseplants, vegetables, trees and shrubs can be done without the need for electricity to pump water from a well. Once your equipment is bought and paid for, it's essentially "free water" and it really is a pure joy.

Know your elevations!

Where are your gardens in relation to the downspouts? Do you need to build up some cribbing as shown in the photograph to gain a few inches in elevation? A little preparation in advance will surely help in a successful project. Having gravity help get the water where it's needed via a hose is a huge help. It sure beats carrying it! More often than not, rain barrels come with a pre-installed brass spigot that accepts a standard garden hose.

So now my rain barrel is full. What do I do with it?

Joint compound buckets serve as wonderful collection devices. No such thing as too many joint compound buckets! Watering cans are another favorite. Careful: Collecting watering cans can be addictive. You'll always be looking for that next, better watering can!

An industrial size scrub brush is great for washing terra cotta pots, garden tools, boots, coolers and anything else muddy that you might not want to bring in the house.

In the event of a power failure, you can flush your toilets by drawing off rainwater and filling up the back of the toilet as needed.

The one thing you CANNOT do is drink it! Bacteria can grow in this environment and the manufacturers are unanimous in their statements NOT to drink the water.

An internet search for "rain barrel" brings up a myriad of different suppliers. The one pictured comes from "The New England Rain Barrel Company", and they're from Massachusetts! This model is called the "New Englander".

Keep your eyes out as sometimes municipalities offer bulk purchases to get reduced prices.

Having rainwater in storage is like money in the bank, only better.



They're in Eastern Mass and moving this way:

Mile-A-Minute Plant (*persicaria perfoliata*) weed, or Asiatic tearthumb, is an herbaceous, annual, trailing vine. Stems are armed with recurved barbs which are also present on the underside of the leaf blades. The light green colored leaves are shaped like an equilateral triangle and alternate along the narrow, delicate stems. Flowers are small, white and generally inconspicuous. The fruits are attractive, deep blue and arranged in clusters at terminals.

Mile-a-minute weed grows rapidly (up to 6" per day) scrambling over shrubs and other vegetation, blocking the foliage of covered plants from available light, and reducing their ability to photosynthesize. Because it can smother tree seedlings, mile-a-minute weed has a negative effect on Christmas tree farms, forestry operations on pine plantations and reforestation of natural areas.

Mile-a-minute weed generally colonizes open and disturbed areas, along the edges of woods, wetlands, stream banks, and roadsides, and uncultivated open fields, resulting from both natural and human causes. Natural causes such as stream banks, parks, open space, road shoulders, forest edges and fence lines

are all typical areas to find mile-a-minute. It will tolerate shade for a part of the day but does best in full sunlight.

Non-Biological and chemical management options - It is important to maintain vegetative community stability and to avoid creating gaps or openings in existing vegetation. Maintain board vegetative buffers along streams and forest edges will help to shade out and prevent establishment of mile-a-minute weed. This will also help to reduce the dispersal of fruits by water.

Hand pulling of seeds is best done before the recurved barbs on the stem and leaves harden, but may be done afterwards with the help of thick gloves. Long pants and a long-sleeved shirt will help prevent skin abrasion. Manual removal of vines may be conducted throughout the summer but use caution once seeds have developed to prevent spread to new areas. The delicate vines can be reeled in fairly easily, balled up and placed in large piles that can be left to desiccate for several days or longer. Try to pull up the whole plant including its roots. For low growing infestations that cover the ground, repeated mowing or weed whipping of vines will reduce the plants reserves and prevent or reduce flowering which in turn reduces fruit and seed production.

Asian Longhorned Beetle: A new and potentially serious threat to some of North America's most beautiful and popular trees is the Asian Longhorned Beetle. Trees favored by the Asian Longhorned Beetle are predominantly maples, but infestations have also been discovered in horsechestnuts, poplars, willows, elms, mulberries and black locusts. Currently, there is no known chemical or biological defense against the Asian Longhorned Beetle and, in North America, they have few natural predators. In all cases of infestation, the affected trees are cut down and the wood destroyed.

Mature Asian longhorned beetles are very large insects with bodies ranging from 1 to 1 ½ inches (2.5-4cm) in length and antennae which can be as long as four inches (10cm). They are shiny and black with

white spots and long antennae banded black and white. These beetles have wings and can fly, although only for short distances because of their size and weights.

If you detect the presence of Asian Longhorned Beetles, contact local forestry officials immediately so they can take steps to contain the outbreak.

Treasurer\Collector:

PLEASE NOTE:

FY 2011 - Real Estate & Personal Property Tax : Preliminary bills were mailed June 30,2010 are due

August 2 and November 1, 2010.

NOTICE: FY2010 tax bills not paid by June 30, 2010 may be subject to a tax lien.

Motor Vehicle Excise - Interim bills are being mailed periodically as the bill information is received from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Interim bills are generated when a new or used vehicle is purchased and/or registered during the present or prior year. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you have disposed of a vehicle, please remember, it is the **taxpayers responsibility** to file an abatement. **Do not ignore** the tax bill as it stays on the books until it is paid or abated. Again, we only have the information provided to us from the Registry of Motor Vehicles which comes from the vehicle owner. If you have received a notice from the Deputy Collector please call his office to clear your obligation.

On Line Banking - UNIPAY on line banking is a great tool for last minute payments of any bill owed to the town. Go to the Town of Egremont web site www.egremont-ma.gov/ and click on pay your bills on line. Follow the instructions from that point. You will be able to use ACH or a credit card. Thank you to all who are using the on-line product. It is working great. Please give it a try. **Note:** When making payments through your bank bill pay please remember to use your current tax bill number and check to be sure the remittance address is correct.

Questions/Confusions - I will be glad to address any question that would be of general information to the taxpayers. Submit questions and concerns pertaining to the Tax Collector/Treasurer to Pat, P.O. Box 368 So. Egremont.

Office hours - Tax Collector 7-3 Monday through Friday or by appointment.

Council on Aging:

TRIAD Meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 2:00 pm in the meeting room, Gt Barrington Police Station.

Representatives of the Interfaith Religious Council of Southern Berkshire will be present to assist TRIAD members with ideas concerning needs of seniors in our area. Residents are invited to exchange ideas with these professionals in a search to better reach seniors when in need.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION: If you are a caregiver of an Alzheimer's or dementia patient, you can be faced with many problems in serving the needs of your loved one. Do not attempt this without exploring all the resources available to you. The Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter, provides support through services such as the 24/7 Helpline, family and caregiver education programs, and early-stage programs. More information is available by calling the association's office at 800-272-3900, or by logging into www.alz.org

Transfer Station:

CET has schedule more Household Hazardous Waste Collections that Egremont residents can participate in. Visit www.cetonline.org for details as to what is taken or see postings around Egremont.

Mini-site collections are Saturday, September 11, 9am-11am at the Lenox Dept of Public Works and Saturday, September 25, 9am-11:30am at the Great Barrington Recycling Center. Pre-register at 1-888-577-8448 ext 10 or 30 or via email at amandad@cetonline.org.

A full collection is scheduled for Saturday, October 2 9am-1pm at the Great Barrington Recycling Center. Pre-register at 1-888-577-8448 ext 10 or 30 or via email to amandad@cetonline.org.

The Egremont School:

The school year starts off September 1st with 21 students in our K/1 program. That is a full house! With 12 in kindergarten and 7 in first grade, our new students are

from Egremont, Sheffield, Alford and Mt. Washington. How fortunate we are to have such a wonderful venue and a great teacher in Julie Milani to start this educational experience for our district's children.

This year we will be learning about trees throughout the year. Our next door neighbor, Geffner & Schatsky, allows us to harvest maple syrup from their back yard. We will walk to visit Sally Caldwell at the library to borrow books on the growth and life of trees and, on the way, collect leaves for our collages. And begin a series of drawings of the trees in front of the school that will show the seasons. All in all it will be a very busy fall.

We urge every resident of Egremont to attend the information meetings coming up about our school and the district. Your understanding of this issue is crucial to the continued prosperity of our town and its families. We look forward to being back.

Egremont Garden Club:

The Egremont Garden Club has two interesting talks planned for the next months. On Wednesday, September 15, an informative talk will be presented by representatives of the Berkshire Conservation District, Deborah Burke and Kate Parsons. They will be reviewing all the new ideas for assisting conservation in our area. On Wednesday, October 20, the club will hostess Marcia Brolli from the Herb Associates of the Berkshire Botanical Garden. Marcia will explain the various on-going projects at the Gardens and highlight future plans. The club would like to invite all interested gardeners to join them at either or both of these events. For more information please call Nancy Sanders at 528-2677.

Friends of Prospect Lake (FoPL):

The annual treatment of Prospect Lake for weeds and algae blooms took place on schedule this summer, and has resulted in a very swimmable, boatable, and fishable lake. Officers elected at FoPL's General Meeting, on July 10 included; Genis Melendez-Delaney as President, Mark Roggen as VP, Frank Penglase as Treasurer, Chet Delaney as Secretary, and Marj Wexler as Director-at-Large. Also at the meeting, a sincere vote of thanks was given to Dave Johnson for his valuable service as FoPL Vice President over the past two years.

Two upcoming Fall Weekend Events to mark on your calendars:

ANNUAL FoPL BREAKFAST SOCIAL MIXER - On Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, the Inn at Sweetwater Farm (located across the street from the Old Egremont Store) will generously sponsor a country

style breakfast. General admission will be \$10 a head, with all proceeds going to the Friends of Prospect Lake. The menu will feature harvest frittata with caramelized onions, roasted peppers, and Cabot cheddar. There will also be buttermilk biscuits with jam, plus a fresh fruit salad. Mark your calendars now to start that Saturday with all of your Prospect Lake friends at a healthy and sumptuous breakfast. This event will be open to all comers, so bring your family and house guests - and spread the word.

FREE EDUCATIONAL TALK ON NATIVE GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING – On Saturday, Oct. 16, at 3:00 p.m., at the North Egremont Firehouse, Dr. Douglas Tallamy will be the guest speaker at an “Interactive Tea and Conversation” concerning our backyards and gardens. A professor at the University of Delaware, Dr. Tallamy has published and spoken widely on the importance of using native plants to support our local populations of insects, birds and wildlife. This program is being jointly sponsored by FoPL and the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council. We hope you will join us for what promises to be a profoundly educational experience that will positively influence our future gardening and landscaping.

Board meeting schedule:

Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon and May to October the third Monday 2-4pm
or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursday 9am to 12noon & by appointment

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday 8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm Wednesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm Meetings - First & Third Thursday 9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Tuesday evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.
Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 6:30pm January through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday 7:30pm
School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm
Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm - 9pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon
or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Office weekdays 8am to 2pm
Meetings Third Thursday 4:30pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

The Silo B&B - guest accommodations
413-528-5195

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B
1 Prospect Lake Road
413-528-2882
www.innsweetwater.com

The Weathervane Inn - Lodging
413/800-528-9580

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
Restaurant & Lodging
413-528-6200

The Egremont Inn and Tavern-Restaurant & Lodging
10 Old Sheffield Road
“A perfect place, great food, music and nice people”. 413-528-2111
www.egremontinn.com

Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restoration
413-528-1232
www.howardsantiquelighting.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal polishing
413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects
195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)
413-528-5383
www.homeasianantiques.com

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and decorative objects.

- 413-528-0112
www.41mainantiques.com
 Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding
 Lessons, summer programs
www.bluerider.org
 413-528-5299
- Green River Arabians & Pintos -
 Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.
 413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com
- Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture
 (CSA) & Farmers Markets
 413-528-8301
www.indianlinefarm.com
- Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road, open 7am to
 7pm 7 days a week. 413-528-5710
- G&S Gventer "Books - Buy & Sell Books
 413-528-2327
- Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork
 413-644-9979
www.CosmicResonance.com
- Peter Goldberg, Dipl. Ac - Acupuncture, Pain
 Management 413-528-5055
- Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor
 44 Main Street, South Egremont
 413-528-9654
www.healingspiritdc@yahoo.com
- Zorn Core Fitness - Boot Camp
 Personal, Couples & Group Training
 Cardio Room coming soon - \$45 per month
 46 Main Street, South Egremont
 413-528-1594
aribzorn@yahoo.com
- Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe
 Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga
 46 Main Street
 413-528-0828
kbyoga@gmail.com
- Cory B. Loder, L.I.C.S.W. - Individual & Couple
 Counseling - Specializing in Dual Diagnosis
 9 Miller View
 413-528-0393
 1-888-528-0393
- Divine Automotive - Automotive repair
 413-528-8007
- Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,
 liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more
 413-528-4796
- Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
 413-528-9633
- Closet Collection - clothing & household
 consignment shop
- 413-528-6236
 Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail
 wood veneer sales
 413-644-9696
- L and L Construction - Home repairs, additions,
 new home building
 413-528-5548
- "Jack of All Trades"-Handyman Services
 Jack Buckley
 413-528-1982
 413-446-1982
- Catamount Ski Area - Skiing
 413-528-1262
www.catamountski.com
- Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales
 Barnbrook Realty
 413-528-4423
anitacentury21@aol.com
- Florence F. Browner Real Estate - Full Service
 90 Creamery Road
 413-528-3266
flobro@wildblue.net
- Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel &
 Accessories
 39 Main Street
 413-528-2330
www.kenverltd.com
- Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger
 154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23
- The Agency Without Walls - Helen Krancer
 Advertising, sales promotion, direct marketing.
 413-644-9700
helen@agencywithoutwalls.com
- Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
 PC repairs - Networking - Internet
 413-528-5415
matt@cyber-knight.net
- James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking
 Field mowing
 413-528-0102
 pager 413-261-2150
- Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts with
 nature. Eric F. Ives
 Mass Problem Animal Control Agent
 Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and
 exclusionary work.
 413-528-9813 413-250-5094

PAPERCHASERS Barbara Fields - Organizing and
Productivity Services, Project and Time
Management
413-528-2824
barbara@paperchasers.com

Support local businesses

These Are For You
By Stanley Farnum

*She came with wilted flowers in a tiny dirt soiled hand
And there was a shining all about her for she knew I'd
understand
As she looked at me from a cherub face with eyes of
lovely blue
That she gave me a bouquet of love when she said,
"These are for you."*

*Those words, "these are for you", lie buried deep
within my heart
For the tick of the clock and the sands of the glass
Had only the fewest of days to pass,
Till from the hidden shadowland Fate thrust us apart.*

*My little one sleeps the forever sleep and I hurt, oh I
hurt and cry,
For down all the long now lonely years I must need try
To wait until we meet again in the land that waits
somewhere
And a little girl with shining eyes will again bring me
flowers fair.*

*And so on the hill where the white stones stand
beneath the dark turned sky
They brought my lovely darling and there she will ever
lie
And again as I tarried there a quiet breeze passed
through
And when I lay the flowers down it whispered,
"These are for you."*

Town of Egremont
P.O. Box 368
South Egremont MA 01258
413-528-0182
www.egremont-ma.gov
tegrement@yahoo.com

**Printed, on recycled paper, by the Selectmen's Office
Staff as submitted by Town Departments.**

**"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity
provider and employer."**